Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

A brief description

1988

WELLCOME COLL.
/(58)

Illustration on front cover: oil painting on panel by Matthijs Naiveu (Leiden 1647-Amsterdam 1721). Iconographic Collections (no. CC 9114). A lady receives the attention of a physician, who takes her pulse at the wrist, and of a surgeon, who lets blood from her foot. European academic medicine invoked three main reasons for bloodletting: evacuation (to reduce a general excess of blood), derivation (to attract blood to a part in which it was deficient), and revulsion (to draw blood away from an area in which it was redundant). There was an elaborate system of indications and counter-indications for the practice.

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for the
History of Medicine

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London
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... for the History
and Understanding
of Medicine

WELLCOME
COLLECTION

/ (58)

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Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine exists to provide library resources and research and teaching facilities for all persons with serious interests in the history of medicine and allied subjects. It is supported solely by the Wellcome Trust, the charity created by the will of Sir Henry S. Wellcome (1853-1936), founder of the international pharmaceutical company, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd. The Trustees were sole shareholders in the Company until February 1986, when 21% of its shares were sold to diversify the Trust's investments.

The staff of the Academic Unit of the Institute provide courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students in association with University College London. A programme of symposia, seminars, and lectures is also available to the general public. The Library's resources are rich and varied and yield opportunities for research and study in virtually every aspect of the subject. Staff from the Academic Unit and the Library co-operate in maintaining a programme of exhibitions.

Seating for approximately fifty-four readers is available in the Library's public rooms. In addition, visiting scholars may be granted longer-term accommodation in one of the study-carrels. The Institute has an eighty-seat lecture room and a seminar room for class-work. A range of photo-reprography facilities is available.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine represents the library and research functions of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and Library, created by Sir Henry S. Wellcome (1853-1936) during the last forty years of his life.

Systematic purchasing for the Library can be traced back to the end of 1897. Museum materials began to be acquired in 1903. The Museum was first placed on public display in 1913 on the occasion of the Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine. In 1932, it was transferred from its original cramped premises at 54 Wigmore Street to the newly erected Wellcome Research Institution (now the Wellcome Building) in Euston Road. In the new building the Museum had ample space for expansion, but when Wellcome died in 1936 it was still closed for reorganisation. The Library was never opened to the public in Wellcome's lifetime; since 1928, it had been housed in a former wireless factory in Willesden, where also the Museum Stores were concentrated, and Wellcome's intention seems to have been that it should ultimately occupy a separate building in Euston Road.

Wellcome's collecting had been on a grand scale, covering the whole history of man with medicine as a central core. On his death, it was decided that, in order to bring the vast accumulation down to manageable size, its scope should be more closely restricted to the history of medicine and science. A great deal of material considered irrelevant was therefore dispersed by sale or gift in 1938 and subsequent years, an operation substantially completed in 1983.

After the war, development of the historical collections was hampered by financial difficulties. The head offices of the pharmaceutical company, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd, had been destroyed in the bombing of London, and in 1946 it was decided that the Wellcome Research Institution should be taken over for this purpose (it was re-named the Wellcome Building in 1955). The Museum was dismantled and placed in store except for a nucleus housed at 28 Portman Square from 1947 to 1954. In 1955, the Museum returned to the Wellcome Building but to very restricted space. The Library was able to remain in the Wellcome Building, where the room originally designed as the Museum's Hall of

Statuary had been allocated to it in 1941. It was officially opened to the public at the end of 1949, although at first the accommodation left much to be desired.

In 1960, the anomalous situation whereby the Museum and Library had been the property of The Wellcome Foundation Ltd was rectified and ownership passed to the Wellcome Trust. For a time the Museum and Library were administered separately, but in 1964 they were reunited and in 1968 renamed the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine. The Library was redesigned and modernised in 1962, and the Museum between 1968 and 1970. A subsequent reappraisal of the Institute's functions led to the decision that the Museum's interests would best be served by transfer to a national museum, and, accordingly, in 1976 arrangements were made for its deposit on indefinite loan at the Science Museum, South Kensington. The transfer was completed in 1982 and two permanent exhibition galleries are now open there. The remainder of the Institute continues to be under the direct control of the Wellcome Trustees and since 1976 has been developed as an academic research centre closely linked with University College London (see below, page 19).

THE LIBRARY

The heart of the Institute is its Library, which is divided into eight departmental collections and includes archives, manuscripts and pictures as well as printed books. The nucleus of the collection consists of the books and other material collected by and for Sir Henry Wellcome between 1897 and 1936, as refined by the subsequent elimination of irrelevant material. One of Wellcome's aims was to acquire a copy of every significant printed text in the history of Western medical science. Achievement of this impossible aim was at least closely approached. Since his death, the Library has continued to grow by the acquisition of both primary and secondary sources, so that today it is the largest and most comprehensive European collection in the history of medicine. On an international scale it ranks in size and quality among the finest two or three libraries in the field. It contains over 400,000 printed books dating from the fifteenth to the twentieth centuries.

This large holding comprises much more than medical literature in the narrow sense. In addition to extensive holdings of material on clinical medicine and therapeutics, the Library possesses large collections relating to the history of the biological sciences in general, and in particular to physiology, botany, and chemistry—all subjects whose histories are closely intertwined with that of the healing arts. There are important holdings relating to travel, ethnography, alchemy, occultism, tobacco, dentistry and veterinary medicine, and there is a wealth of material on ordinary aspects of medical care such as hospitals, case histories, and nursing. Additionally, substantial acquisitions of materials from other institutions have been made in recent years. Outstanding examples are some forty-five per cent of the original library of the Medical Society of London, a large collection (*c.* 24,000 volumes) of mostly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century books deposited by the Royal Society of Medicine, and the libraries of the Royal Society of Health (*c.* 30,000 volumes) and the Eugenics Society (*c.* 6,000 volumes).

The Reading Room of the Wellcome Institute Library. It contains reference books on open access, but not the rare books and manuscripts which are kept in air-conditioned strongrooms. The anatomical figures at the end of the room are enlargements of woodcuts published by Andreas Vesalius in 1543.

During Wellcome's life, his library was a focus of envy to scholars and students who were denied access to its treasures. Since its opening to the public in 1949, the Library, within the context of general Institute activity, has developed into an internationally recognised resource for the study of medical history, thus fulfilling one of its founder's dreams.

Since 1954. catalogues of various sections of the Library's holdings have been published, or are in preparation (see page 23). Comprehensive catalogues to the printed books and serials, by author and subject, may be consulted in the Library. The development of a machine-readable bibliographic record of all printed holdings published after 1850 is in progress. The post-1850 entries in the former author card catalogue have now largely been replaced by a microfiche catalogue giving enhanced access possibilities. The long-term aim of automation is the creation of an on-line library catalogue.

Early Printed Books

The year 1850 has long been established as a convenient terminal date to define the Library's collection of early printed books, most of which were acquired in Sir Henry Wellcome's lifetime. Although Wellcome collected from a wide variety of sources for some forty years, his collection derives much of its character from his acquisition of existing large collections. His first major purchase, at the sale of William Morris's library in 1898, laid the foundation of the Institute's collection of incunabula (books printed before 1501). The library of Dr J.F. Payne, purchased in 1911, was the comprehensive collection of a medical historian with rich holdings of incunabula, early English books and plague literature. The Kurt Wolff sale at Frankfurt am Main in 1926 contributed the largest single accession of incunabula, equal to the Morris and Payne collections combined. Much of the Library's strength in French, Italian and Dutch material can be attributed to the collections of the pharmacist Louis Debacq (purchased in 1919) and of Dr Luigi Zangrandi (1928) and to the duplicates discarded by the Dutch Royal Library (1923). Its coverage of alchemy and early chemistry (both present in the Debacq collection) was enhanced in 1930 by books from the collection of Dr Ernst Darmstaedter. The medical duplicates acquired from Manchester University in 1930 reflect the Manchester obstetrical tradition. The books and pamphlets relating

to Edward Jenner and vaccination, collected by Frederick Mockler and acquired in 1918, are an example of a collection devoted to a single individual.

The Library's collection of over 600 incunabula derives to a large extent from the Morris, Payne and Wolff collections. It is one of the few parts of the Library not to have been weeded since Wellcome's death and thus has less of a bias towards medicine and science than the rest of the collection. There are, for example, religious and legal works acquired not for their content but as examples of early printing and book design. Most of the great names in the history of medicine from antiquity, the European Middle Ages and the Renaissance are, however, represented.

Among the early association copies are three volumes which belonged to Hieronymus Münzer, town physician of Nuremberg. Another has the signature of Hartmann Schedel, Münzer's friend and colleague, and compiler of the celebrated *Nuremberg Chronicle* (1493), of which the Library has a superb copy, with contemporary notes, from William Morris's library. There are also two books from the library of Thomas Linacre.

The Library is particularly rich in books of the Continental scientific renaissance, and it has a fine collection of early printed medical books in English. Books from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries include scholarly editions of the classical and Arabic medical writers, many of them in the great editions of the scholar-printers such as Aldus Manutius, Froben, the Estiennes, the Juntae, and Oporinus. In anatomy, the works of Vesalius, his predecessors and successors are included. Surgery is represented by the works of Hieronymus Brunschwig, Hans Gersdorff, Ambroise Paré, Johannes de Vigo, and others. There is a comprehensive collection of the writings of Paracelsus. The Library is rich in books on materia medica and pharmacology, and possesses an extensive range of early herbals including editions of Dioscorides, Fuchs, Lobel, Bock, Dodoens, Gerard, and Parkinson. William Harvey's *De motu cordis* (1628) is present, and the Library holds the foundation works of modern science in the first editions of Bacon, Galileo, Kepler, Descartes, Hooke, Newton, and Boyle.

Hortus sanitatis, Ortus sanitatis, *Mainz 1491, fols. gg3ᵛ–4ʳ. An early printed compendium of popular natural history and medicine with woodcut illustrations. In these pages from the section on minerals, copper is illustrated by a smith at his anvil and the precious stone draconites by a dragon-slaying scene. Draconites was said to be found in the head of a dragon or serpent and to be a specific against poison if it could be extracted while the beast was still alive.*

From the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries come the classic works of Boerhaave, Morgagni, Heberden, Haller, William and John Hunter, Jenner, Larrey, Laennec and Richard Bright, to highlight only a few famous names. Unique items from this period are Jesse Foot's grangerised copy of his *The life of John Hunter* (London, 1794), Sir Charles Bell's annotated copy of his *Essays on the anatomy of expression in painting* (London, 1806) and the only recorded copy of Henry Hill Hickman's *A letter on suspended animation* (Ironbridge, 1824). Alongside the great names are the works of their forgotten contemporaries, unusual tracts, pamphlets and ephemeral literature, so integral to the wider social and intellectual context of medical history.

An outstanding recent accession has been the purchase in 1984 of about 11,000 books from the library of the Medical Society of London. This collection was largely built up in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and its early printed books have greatly strengthened the Library's holdings. Among the rarities are *The vertuose boke of distyllacyon* by Hieronymus Brunschwig (London, '1427', i.e. 1528?), the first edition of Malpighi's *De pulmonibus* (Bologna, 1661), a set of proof sheets for a never-completed edition of Michael Servetus's *Christianismi restitutio* (London, 1723), and Baskerville's prospectus for an English translation of Lieutaud's *Synopsis universae praxeos medicae* (Birmingham, 1770).

Modern Medicine

As part of the ongoing policy of growth and development, the Library is systematically expanding its holdings of works on clinical medicine, medical science and related subjects in the post-1850 period.

The Modern Medicine Collection contains about 60,000 monographic titles, including standard medical textbooks, pharmacopoeias, government reports and obscure privately-printed pamphlets. Approximately 5,000 journal titles are represented. Cataloguing of the collection is still in progress.

Historical Collection

The Historical Collection consists of some 50,000 secondary sources on the history of medicine and related sciences. Most of the collection is on open access in the Reading Room of the Library and in the Periodicals Room. Over 200 current serials are received in a wide range of languages, as well as offprints sent to the Library by authors. New accessions average 100 monographs per month and include such subjects as population studies, social history, biography, materia medica, witchcraft and general bibliography.

Western Manuscripts

The majority of the Institute's western manuscripts are recorded in S.A.J. Moorat's *Catalogue of western manuscripts on medicine and science in the Wellcome Library.* Published in three volumes between 1962 and 1973, this records more than 5,000 manuscripts dating from the eleventh to the twentieth centuries and written in a wide variety of European languages. Amongst the medieval treasures of the collection are the earliest surviving manuscript of the *Articella* (a standard textbook of medieval medical education), written in Southern Italy in the twelfth century; a thirteenth-century manuscript of the *Herbarium* of Pseudo-Apuleius and the *De medicina ex animalibus* of Sextus Placitus with over 200 drawings of plants and animals; and a magnificently illustrated German miscellany of the fifteenth century containing the *Apocalypse,* the *Ars moriendi,* and a remarkable series of anatomical and medical illustrations. From the modern period there are correspondence and papers of doctors and scientists, including Edward Jenner and Joseph Lister, records of medical societies such as the Royal Jennerian Society, and notes taken at lectures given by Europe's celebrated medical teachers, amongst them Giovanni Battista da Monte, Herman Boerhaave, John and William Hunter, William Cullen, and the Monros, the Scottish dynasty of anatomists. Medical research, opinion and practice are reflected in a range of diaries, letter books, account books, medical treatises, recipe books, case books, prescription books and laboratory notes. The collection extends in some instances beyond the fields of science and medicine, including, for instance, fifteen volumes of Lord Nelson's papers, concerning his command of various fleets in the years 1780-1805.

A supplementary catalogue of western manuscripts is in preparation. Amongst the papers which it records are correspondence of Galileo Galilei and of Baron Larrey, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Napoleonic army, and substantial collections of letters by Louis Pasteur and Florence Nightingale.

There is also an extensive collection of autograph letters by T.H. Huxley, Alexander von Humboldt, Sir James Paget and numerous other doctors and scientists. There is a brief index to this collection at the end of the last volume of Moorat's *Catalogue,* and a more comprehensive card index is available in the Library.

Matthaeus Platearius, Circa instans seu de medicamentis simplicibus, *Western Manuscript 626, French, late 15th century, fol. 7^{r}. The* Circa instans, *attributed to the Salernitan doctor Matthaeus Platearius, was a popular medieval herbal. This lavishly illustrated manuscript contains more than 400 miniatures of plants and other substances used in medicine, and also scenes of their collection. The miniature on fol. 7^{r} shows the extraction of alum, the properties and medicinal uses of which are described in the manuscript.*

The manuscript collection of the Medical Society of London, acquired for the Institute in 1984, contains a further 200 manuscripts dating from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries. Almost all are recorded in Warren R. Dawson's *Manuscripta medica: a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Library of the Medical Society of London* (London, Bale & Danielsson, 1932).

Further papers earlier than 1900 continue to be acquired by gift, deposit and purchase. Twentieth-century papers are collected by the Institute's Contemporary Medical Archives Centre. The Institute is pleased to advise owners concerning the preservation of papers of medical interest.

The American Collection

The collection aims to cover the full range of medical practice in the Americas and the Caribbean, from the medicine of the American Indian to the Europeanised medicine of the colonial and immediate post-colonial periods.

The three major collections on which the collection is based differ widely. Sir Henry Wellcome's collection reflects his interests in plant remedies of the New World, in botanical exploration, and in the ethnology of the American Indian. That of the Mexican obstetrician and polymath Dr Nicolás León, purchased by Wellcome in 1927, is remarkable for its bibliographical rarities. Dr Francisco Guerra's collection, acquired by the Wellcome Trustees in 1962, is rich in Mexicana, in primary printed material from other hispanic colonies, and in works on materia medica, medical periodicals, and bibliographies, most of which relate to Latin America and the Caribbean.

North America. The material, much of it acquired since 1962, contains some 550 printed items published in the area of the original thirteen British colonies between 1720 and 1820, representing a unique resource for primary study on this side of the Atlantic. The collection also includes some manuscript material, and is strong in medical botany, nineteenth- and twentieth-century material on travel in the United States, ethnographical works on the American Indian and his medicine, and colonial and post-colonial almanacs.

Latin America and the Caribbean figure strongly in the collection. The collection of Mexican medical imprints from 1557 to 1833 is the most complete in existence. Other former colonies whose representation is reasonably complete are Peru and Guatemala. Useful material is held for Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti (primarily in photocopy), and Jamaica. Smaller collections exist for colonies which possessed printing-presses before the end of colonial rule, i.e. Colombia, Venezuela, Guadeloupe, and Martinique.

European sixteenth- to nineteenth-century imprints relating to the Americas range from imperial law to colonial exploration and local plant

QVATRO LIBROS.

DE LA NATV-
RALEZA, Y VIRTVDES DE LAS
plantas, y animales que eſtan receuidos en el vſo
de Medicina en la Nueua Eſpaña, y la Methodo, y correc-
cion, y preparacion, que para adminiſtrallas ſe requiere
con lo que el Doctor Franciſco Hernandez eſcriuio
en lengua Latina.

MVY VTIL PARA TODO GENERO DE
gente q̃ viue en eſtãcias y Pueblos, do no ay Medicos, ni Botica.

¶ Traduzido, y aumentados muchos ſimples, y Compueſtos
y otros muchos ſecretos curatiuos, por Fr. Franciſco Xi-
menez hijo del Conuento de S. Domingo de Mexico,
Natural de la Villa de Luna del Reyno de Aragon.

¶ *A Nr̃o R. P. Maeſtro Fr. Hernando Bazan, Prior Prouincial de
la Prouincia de Sãctiago de Mexico, de la Orden de los Predicadores,
y Cathedratico Iubilado de Theologia en la Vniuerſidad Real.*

¶ *En Mexico, en caſa de la Viuda de Diego Lopez Daualos.* 1615.
¶ Vendeſe en la tienda de Diego Garrido, en la eſquina de
la calle de Tacuba, y en la Porteria de S. Domingo.

Francisco Ximénez, Quatro libros de la naturaleza, *Mexico 1615, title page. The first separate appearance in print of a significant section of Francisco Hernández's illustrated treatise (Rome, 1628-51) on the materia medica of New Spain, intended in part for those in remote places without physicians or drugs. Ximénez adds comments from his personal experience.*

remedies. Special groups of material include: a valuable series of *Guías de forasteros* for many of the hispanic colonies; an unusual collection of invocations to the saints for relief from disease; a collection on materia medica; rare official and medical periodicals; national and subject bibliographies.

The 150 manuscripts, primarily of Latin American origin, and many of them of considerable research interest, complete the collection.

An annotated catalogue of the Latin American and Caribbean collection and of all the manuscripts was published in 1983 and a short descriptive booklet is also available.

Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books

The Institute has one of the major collections of oriental material in the United Kingdom, with over 11,000 manuscripts and some 3,000 books printed in oriental types. Forty-three different languages are represented, stretching from North Africa to the Far East. The span of time is enormous: the earliest manuscripts, Egyptian demotic and hieratic papyri, date from the sixth century BC; the variety of material used includes bone, ivory, metal and palm leaves, besides paper and vellum. Almost every sphere of human endeavour impinging on the medical history of the East is found and can be studied in original sources.

Thanks to the efforts of Dr Paira Mall, who collected extensively in South Asia from 1911 to 1921, the collection is rich in Indian and Tibetan material. Dr Mall, who had studied medicine in Europe, was proficient in several languages, both Indian and European, and had many influential contacts in the Sub-Continent. The collection of Sanskrit manuscripts numbers some 6,000, of which 1,000 have recently been described in the first of a six-volume handlist. The Hindi manuscript collection is one of the largest outside India.

Dr Mall was also responsible for much of the important Persian collection comprising several hundred manuscripts and printed books, including the outstanding fifteenth-century manuscript containing the horoscope of Iskandar Sultan. A detailed catalogue of the Persian manuscripts was published in 1986.

A.Z. Iskandar's *Catalogue of Arabic manuscripts,* published in 1967, describes the more important medical and scientific manuscripts in the Arabic collection; many others have yet to be catalogued, including the Haddad collection of medical manuscripts purchased in 1985.

Other large collections include 600 Chinese block-printed books and some 300 Sinhalese palm-leaf manuscripts. Of the smaller language

Hovhannēs Erznkac'i, Yaghags erknayin sharzhman [concerning the heavenly movements], *Armenian manuscript acc. 63373, copied in 1795, fols. 32v–33r. The illustration shows an astronomer looking through a telescope. The sun and moon are depicted immediately below a band of cloud which supports the signs of the zodiac, and above is a starry sky.*

collections, the group of twenty-four Batak manuscripts is the largest collection in this language in the United Kingdom and comprises manuscripts written on bamboo tubes, bones, and tree bark.

Many of the oriental collections are as yet uncatalogued, but steady progress is being made. The catalogues published at present describe Arabic, Armenian, Batak, Ethiopian, Hebrew, Javanese, Malay, Manchu, Persian and Sanskrit materials. Printed books appear in the Library's general catalogues, except for Chinese printed books, which appear in a separate card catalogue kept in the Oriental Room. Readers may consult oriental materials in the Oriental Room, where there is a comprehensive collection of bibliographies, catalogues of other collections, dictionaries, and reference works.

Iconographic Collections

Aspects of history for which written evidence is partial or non-existent, but which can be studied through pictorial sources, are documented in the Library's collections of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and variously illustrated manuscripts and printed books. These may be said to embody the iconography of medical history.

C. Williams, The country infirmary, *coloured etching, London 1813. One of the caricatures in the Iconographic Collections, this is a rare—possibly unique—view of the interior of an old English provincial infirmary. The style of the window suggests a building two centuries old or older. The patients, most of whom seem to have passed middle age, lie on shared pallets without privacy. The central figure is a physician, dressed in an old-fashioned style and holding a bunch of flowers to sweeten the air around him. In the left foreground a dog treats his prescription with unhygienic contempt.*

Among the subjects thus preserved are: the practice of medicine, including hospital- and bedside-scenes, surgery, midwifery, dentistry, dispensing, and quackery; the practice of such ancillary arts as alchemy and chemistry, anatomy, microbiology, pharmacy, phrenology, etc.;

expressions of the patient's or potential patient's interest, in the form of satires and caricatures, devotional pictures, ex-voto paintings, 'works of mercy', icons; works issued by or for doctors, such as portraits, allegories, commemorative pictures, and scientific illustrations of anatomy, botany, dermatology, etc.; epidemics, public health, prisons, philanthropy, and an extensive range of not exclusively medical subjects. Both fine art and ephemeral or popular art are included. Works are widely published and lent for exhibition, and new items are being acquired by gift and purchase.

Paintings

Many of the paintings are exhibited in the Library's public rooms; others can be seen by arrangement. They include prime portraits of Edward Jenner; Spanish panel paintings including Alonso de Sedano's Miracle of SS. Cosmas and Damian (Burgos, *c.* 1500); St. Elizabeth visiting a hospital by Adam Elsheimer (Frankfurt am Main, 1598); Dutch 'genre' paintings; and over fifty Tibetan thankas. Many of these have been described in specialist publications. Work is proceeding on a general catalogue of the paintings; a provisional handlist of the European paintings is kept at the Enquiry Desk.

Drawings and Prints

These may be examined in the Print Room adjacent to the Catalogue Hall on the second floor. As paper and pigments are damaged by light, drawings and prints are not permanently exhibited but are kept in solander boxes. There are excellent collections of English and French caricatures; portraits (for details of the portrait catalogue see page 23); hospital views; botanical illustrations; and allegories of mortality. Among the most notable drawings are a pathological illustration in watercolour by Thomas Willis and Christopher Wren; two botanical watercolours by Ehret; and a study by Ribera for his etching of a man with goitre. The print collection is very extensive.

Photographs

The photographic collection includes Roentgen's first nine radiographs, made in December 1895; records of epidemics of smallpox (Gloucester 1896, Palestine 1922), plague (Bombay, 1896), etc.; clinical photographs from the 1860s; photographs of Hong Kong, Saigon, etc., still in a relatively rural state, made also in the 1860s by John Thomson; albums of hospital photographs; and many other items.

The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre

The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre was established in 1979 as a permanent unit within the Library. It aims to encourage and help with the preservation of twentieth-century records, documents, and archive

collections relating to medical care and research in Britain. The Centre houses many collections itself and is also happy to advise owners. In some cases, owners retain their records, and advice is given by the Centre on their safe keeping and arrangement. At other times, collections may be transferred to a suitable repository where they are housed and made available for research. The Centre is also concerned to locate and record material of potential relevance to historians, such as collections of papers of individuals, and the records of institutions, societies, and hospitals. A Hospital Records Project is being undertaken in conjunction with the Public Record Office and with assistance from the King's Fund Centre. This is assembling information about British hospitals and their records on a computerised database and comprises the most comprehensive register of these records in the country.

Over 250 accessions have been received in the Centre, either by gift or deposit. There are some seventy collections of personal papers and records of associations, societies and professional bodies, including the papers of Sir Ernst Chain, Melanie Klein, Sir Thomas Lewis, Sir George Pickering, Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer, and Dr Marie Stopes. There are also records of the Eugenics Society, the Abortion Law Reform Association, the Lister Institute, the British Pharmacological Society, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain, the Association of County Medical Officers of Health, and the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, amongst others.

The Centre is open to scholars during Library opening hours, but a prior appointment with the Archivist is necessary for the first visit, since collections may not be available for consultation or the permission of the donor/depositor may be required. Readers will be required to sign an undertaking. Further details are available in a separate leaflet and a descriptive booklet.

Conservation Department

For the most part the Library's rarest and most precious items are stored in air-conditioned strongrooms. In spite of this precaution, much preservation work has to be done in a well-equipped workshop staffed

by three skilled conservators. They apply a range of techniques to the cleaning and restoration of a wide variety of materials from many cultures. Contact is maintained with national and international preservation centres in order to take advantage of the latest methods and innovations in an increasingly demanding and complex field.

THE ACADEMIC UNIT

The Institute has always been fortunate to have on its staff distinguished scholars. It offered a haven to Professor Max Neuburger from 1939 to 1948. Dr F.N.L. Poynter, Librarian from 1954 to 1964 and Director from 1964 to 1973, was an important figure in international medical-historical circles. His successor as Director, Dr Edwin Clarke, was particularly concerned to establish closer formal links with the academic community. Accordingly, a Scheme of Association was established in 1976 between the Institute and University College London, whereby academic staff of the Unit of the History of Medicine at University College would become attached to the Institute, and members of the Academic Unit at the Institute would be recognised as teachers within University College. In practice, the two Units function as an integral whole and are responsible for a broadly-based academic programme, including undergraduate, postgraduate, and postdoctoral instruction, and a series of symposia, seminars, classes, and lectures open to members of the medical profession and the academic community. Equally important, members of the Unit exploit the Institute Library and its special collections in their own researches and co-operate with the Library staff in the preparation of exhibitions.

The heart of the undergraduate teaching programme is the intercalated BSc degree in History of Medicine available to third-year medical students. The full-time one-year course consists of six separate papers in the History of Medicine; these individual papers are also available as electives to intercalated medical students at University College and other University of London medical schools, and to science students at University College. Their contents range from classical antiquity to the twentieth century. Intercollegiate history options in the history of medicine and biology are also taught by members of the Unit; these are available to history

undergraduates from any college in the University of London. In addition, the Academic Unit shares the teaching for the MSc in the History and/or Philosophy of Science with University College's Department of the History and Philosophy of Science. There are plans (from 1988) to broaden further the MSc teaching through a co-operative venture with historians and philosophers at Imperial College. Details of the formal teaching programme are available through the Office of the Unit at the Institute. Members of the Unit supervise research leading to the MPhil, PhD, and MD degrees. Each year, a number of postdoctoral research fellows are also based at the Institute. These fellows come from Britain and abroad and are supported by grants from the Wellcome Trust and other funding bodies. Many established scholars from all over the world also spend periods of sabbatical leave working at the Institute.

As part of its wider responsibilities to the medical and academic communities, the Unit also runs an active series of one-day Symposia, Research Seminars, Reading Classes, and Public Lectures. About six Symposia are held each year on a variety of themes, which have included Medical Charities and Medical Research; the History of the Pharmaceutical Industry; Dr Johnson and Medicine; and Medicine and the Five Senses. The fortnightly Research Seminars are organised around the ongoing research interests of members of the Unit. The topics change periodically; the initial series, devoted to the history of psychiatry, was followed by a series on the patient's view of medicine. A third series explored the history of medicine in London and a fourth was on the history of hospitals. The theme for 1987-88 has been the history of diseases. As with the Symposia, speakers are drawn from the Institute and from scholars in Britain and abroad. The fortnightly Reading Classes, taught by members of the Unit, involve close discussion of primary texts, for example, a series of treatises on wound treatment from antiquity to the nineteenth century. In addition, the Institute hosts a regular round of Public Lectures. Many of these are designed to give distinguished clinicians, medical scientists, and historians the opportunity to reflect on more recent aspects of medical history.

Members of the Unit are active in their own researches, which range from Galen to the social history of eighteenth-century Britain and to the impact of medical technology on modern medicine. An indication of the

range of these researches can be seen from the selection of recent publications by members of the Institute's staff listed on pages 25-27. Library as well as Academic staff are vigorously engaged in research, and the Institute's role in the national and international history of medicine community is leavened through the strength derived from the close relations maintained between the Library and the Academic Unit.

The Institute regularly circulates details of its academic programme. Inclusion on the mailing list may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Academic Unit at the Institute.

MEDICAL ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS SURVEY

The Institute is undertaking a survey of primary sources for medical history. The aim is to locate and register archive and manuscript resources relevant to the history of medicine which are open to public access in the British Isles. It is hoped that this unique opportunity to consolidate information will benefit scholars and custodians alike by providing a single point of enquiry for access to sources nationwide.

The survey covers all aspects of health and disease from 1600 to 1945. It is recording the professional and personal papers of individuals and institutions concerned with medical and nursing practice, research, welfare and education. Local and central government records relating to public health and the provision of health care, as well as private papers with a significant medical content, are also being included. Lesser-known locations are to be covered as well as prominent national and local repositories.

The survey results are being computerised to provide a reference database from which a book will be drawn for publication in 1990.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WELLCOME INSTITUTE

The Institute is responsible for two quarterly publications and a series of volumes describing its collections.

The two periodicals are *Medical History* and *Current Work in the History of Medicine*. *Medical History* is the leading British journal devoted to the history of medicine and related sciences. It publishes articles and book reviews from scholars throughout the world. There is, in addition, an annual hardback Supplement to *Medical History*, available separately; these Supplements consist of monographs or collections of papers on aspects of the history of medicine. *Current Work in the History of Medicine* is a bibliographical tool produced by Library staff. Each quarterly issue lists some 1,400 books and articles on the history of medicine in all major European and oriental languages. Subscription details of both these periodicals are available from Professional and Scientific Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Volumes containing selections of papers given at each of the Institute's Research Seminars have already appeared or are in preparation. About half of the symposia have generated books edited by members of the Academic Unit. Several of these form part of the Wellcome Institute Series in the History of Medicine, published by Associated Book Publishers under their Croom Helm and Routledge imprints. The tradition of scholarly exhibition catalogues dates back to 1913.

Catalogues

In order to make the riches of the Institute's collections more widely known, members of the staff have long been engaged in producing volumes describing its holdings. The following have so far been published and, unless otherwise indicated, are available from the Institute:

A catalogue of incunabula, by F.N.L. Poynter. (Oxford University Press, 1954). (Out of print)

A catalogue of printed books.

Vol. I (edited by F.N.L. Poynter). *Books printed before 1641.* 1962. (Out of print)

Vol. II (compiled by H.R. Denham). *Books printed from 1641 to 1850. A–E.* 1966. (Out of print)

Vol. III (compiled by H.R. Denham). *Books printed from 1641 to 1850. F–L.* 1976.

Vol. IV (compiled by H.R. Denham and H.J.M. Symons). *Books printed from 1641 to 1850. M–R.* (in preparation)

Catalogue of western manuscripts on medicine and science, by S.A.J. Moorat.

Vol. I. *Manuscripts written before AD 1650.* 1962.

Vol. II. *Manuscripts written after AD 1650,* 2 vols. 1973.

A Catalogue of Arabic manuscripts on medicine and science, by A.Z. Iskandar. 1967.

Portraits of doctors and scientists, by R. Burgess. 1973.

An annotated catalogue of medical Americana, by R.M. Price. 1983.

Contemporary Medical Archives Centre. Consolidated accessions list, by J. Sheppard and L. Hall. 2nd ed., 1985.

A handlist of the Sanskrit and Prakrit manuscripts, by D. Wujastyk.

Vol. I. 1985.

A descriptive and analytical catalogue of Persian manuscripts, by F. Keshavarz. 1986.

The card subject catalogue of the Library, which includes the cumulation of *Current Work in the History of Medicine* from 1954 to 1977, was published in 18 vols. in 1980 by Kraus International Publications. (Out of print)

Descriptive Booklets

The Oriental Collections, by N. Allan. 1984. (Out of print)

The South Asian Collections, by D. Wujastyk. 1984. (Out of print)

The American Collections, by R.M. Price. 1986.

The Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, by J. Sheppard. 1987.

Recent Exhibition Catalogues

High matter, dark language: the philosophy of Robert Fludd. 1984. (Out of print)

Morbid cravings: the emergence of addiction. 1984.

Books from the Library of the Medical Society of London. (H.J.M. Symons) 1985.

The pest anatomized, five centuries of plague in Western Europe. (R.J. Palmer) 1985. (Out of print)

Islamic science: crossroad of cultures. (N. Allan) 1985.

Huguenots in the medical world. (H.J.M. Symons) 1985.

Body and mind in Tibetan medicine. (M. Winder) 1986.

A vision of history. 1986.

No laughing matter: historical aspects of anaesthesia. (C.J. and G.M. Lawrence) 1987.

A mirror for medicine. 1987.

Medical History Supplements

1. *Theories of fever from Antiquity to the Enlightenment,* edited by W.F. Bynum and V. Nutton. 1981.
2. *The paradox of Rembrandt's 'Anatomy of Dr Tulp',* by W. Schupbach. 1982.
3. *A study of the English apothecary from 1660 to 1760,* by Juanita G.L. Burnby. 1983.
4. *Xavier Bichat and the medical theory of the eighteenth century,* by E. Haigh. 1984.

5. *The emergence of modern cardiology,* edited by W.F. Bynum, C. Lawrence and V. Nutton. 1985.
6. *The library of Dr John Webster: the making of a seventeenth-century radical,* by P. Elmer. 1986.
7. *A medical student at St. Thomas's Hospital, 1801-1802. The Weekes family letters,* edited by J. Ford. 1987.

Miscellaneous Publications

Galen: problems and prospects, edited by V. Nutton. 1981.

Selected Publications by Members of Staff

Full lists are to be found in the Institute's published annual reports for the years 1982-83 onwards.

N. Allan, 'Catalogue of Hebrew manuscripts in the Wellcome Institute, London', *Journal of Semitic Studies,* 1982, **27:** 193-220.

N. Allan, 'Syriac fragments in the Wellcome Institute Library', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society,* 1987: 43-47.

E.J. Browne, *'The Secular Ark': studies in the history of biogeography* (Yale University Press, 1983).

W.F. Bynum, E.J. Browne and R.S. Porter (editors), *Dictionary of the history of science* (Macmillan, 1981).

W.F. Bynum and R.S. Porter (editors), *William Hunter and the eighteenth-century medical world* (Cambridge University Press, 1985).

W.F. Bynum, R.S. Porter and M. Shepherd (editors), *The anatomy of madness: essays in the history of psychiatry,* 2 vols. (Tavistock, 1985).

W.F. Bynum and R.S. Porter (editors), *Medical fringe and medical orthodoxy* (Croom Helm, 1986).

L.I. Conrad (editor and translator), A. A. Duri, *The rise of historical writing among the Arabs* (Princeton University Press, 1983).

L.I. Conrad, 'The Biblical tradition for the Plague of the Philistines', *Journal of the American Oriental Society,* 1984, **104:** 281-287.

E.J. Freeman, 'Medical historians, librarians and bibliographers: will they ever meet?', in P. Teigen (editor), *Books, manuscripts and the history of medicine* (New York, Science History Publications, 1982).

L. Granshaw, *St Mark's Hospital, London: a social history of a specialist hospital* (King's Fund/Oxford University Press, 1985).

L.A. Hall, ' "Somehow very distasteful": doctors, men and sexual problems between the wars', *Journal of Contemporary History,* 1985, **20:** 553-574.

L.A. Hall and N. Morgan, 'The archives of the Lister Institute', *Medical History,* 1986, **30:** 212-215.

C.J. Lawrence, 'Ornate physicians and learned artisans: Edinburgh medical men 1726-1776', in W.F. Bynum and R.S. Porter (editors), *William Hunter and the eighteenth-century medical world* (1985).

C.J. Lawrence, W.F. Bynum and V. Nutton (editors), *The emergence of modern cardiology* (Medical History Supplement No. 5, 1985).

C.J. Lawrence and R.G.W. Anderson (editors), *Science, medicine and dissent: Joseph Priestley 1733-1806* (Wellcome Trust/Science Museum, 1987).

M.R. Neve, 'Science in a commercial city: Bristol 1820-1860', in I. Inkster and J. Morrell (editors), *Metropolis and province* (Hutchinson, 1983).

G. Prescott Nuding, 'Faraday: image of the man and the collector', in D. Gooding and F. James (editors), *Faraday rediscovered* (Macmillan, 1985).

G. Prescott Nuding, 'Gachet and Johnston-Saint: the provenance of van Gogh's *L'homme à la pipe', Medical History,* 1987, **31:** 217-224.

V. Nutton, 'The seeds of disease: an explanation of contagion and infection from the Greeks to the Renaissance', *Medical History,* 1983, **27:** 1-34.

V. Nutton, *John Caius and the manuscripts of Galen* (Cambridge Philological Society, 1987).

V. Nutton, 'Galen's philosophical testament: *On my own opinions',* in J. Wiesner (editor), *Aristoteles: Werk und Wirkung, Paul Moraux gewidmet,* vol. 2 (Berlin, de Gruyter, 1987).

R.J. Palmer, *The Studio of Venice and its graduates in the sixteenth century* (Trieste and Padua, Lint, 1983).

R.J. Palmer, 'Medical botany in northern Italy in the Renaissance', *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine,* 1985, **78:** 149-157.

R.J. Palmer, 'Sanità pubblica e pestilenza: la politica veneziana nel Friuli all' inizio dell' epoca moderna', in A. Pastore (editor), *Sanità e società. Friuli-Venezia Giulia secoli XVI-XX* (Tavagnacco, Casamassima, 1987).

R.S. Porter, *English society in the eighteenth century* (Penguin, 1982).

R.S. Porter, *Mind-forg'd manacles: a history of madness in England from the Restoration to the Regency* (Athlone/Harvard University Press, 1987).

R.S. Porter, *A social history of madness* (Weidenfeld, 1987).

R.M. Price, 'State, Church, charity and smallpox: an epidemic crisis in the City of Mexico, 1797-98', *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine,* 1982, **75:** 356-367.

W.M. Schupbach, *The paradox of Rembrandt's 'Anatomy of Dr Tulp'* (Medical History Supplement No. 2, 1982).

W.M. Schupbach, 'A select iconography of animal experiment', in N. Rupke (editor), *Vivisection in historical perspective* (Croom Helm, 1987).

J. Sheppard and J. Foster (editors), *British archives* (Macmillan, 1982).

J. Sheppard, 'Sir Leonard Rogers, FRS (1868-1962) and his papers', *Medical History,* 1983, **27:** 214-215.

J. Sheppard, 'Charles Joseph Singer, DM, DLitt, DSc, FRCP (1876-1960): papers in the Contemporary Medical Archives Centre', *Medical History,* 1987, **31:** 466-471.

J. Symons, 'Sir Henry Wellcome and the Wellcome Building', *Thirties Society Journal,* 1987, **6:** 8-15.

D. Wujastyk, 'The spikes in the ears of the ascetic: an illuminated tale in Buddhism and Jainism', *Oriental Art,* 1984, **n.s. 30:** 189-194.

D. Wujastyk, 'An alchemical ghost: the *Rasaratnâkara* by Nâgârjuna', *Ambix,* 1984, **31:** 70-83.

D. Wujastyk, 'Ravigupta and Vāgbhata', *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies,* 1985, **48:** 74-78.

Directors of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum and of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine

1913-1936	Sir Henry S. Wellcome, LLD, DSc, FRS (Founder and Director)
1913-1925	C.J.S. Thompson, MBE (Curator)
1925-1934	L.W.G. Malcolm, MSc, PhD, FRSE (Conservator)
1934-1947	P.J. Johnston-Saint, MA, FRSE (Conservator)
1941-1945	S.H. Daukes, OBE, MD
1946-1964	E.A. Underwood, MD, FRCP
1964-1973	F.N.L. Poynter, BA, PhD, Hon MD, FLA
1973-1979	E. Clarke, MD, FRCP
1980-1981	Prof. A.R. Hall, MA, LittD, FBA (Chairman)
1981-1983	P.O. Williams, MB, FRCP
1983-1987	Prof. Sir William Paton, CBE, DM, FRCP, FRS

Librarians

1900-1913	C.J.S. Thompson
1913-1918	T.W. Huck, FLA
1919-1921	C.C. Barnard, MLA
1921-1925	W.R.B. Prideaux, BA, FLA
1925-1931	C.R. Hewitt, FLA
1932-1946	S.A.J. Moorat, MA, DipLib
1946-1953	W.J. Bishop, FLA
1954-1964	F.N.L. Poynter, BA, PhD, FLA
1964-1973	E. Gaskell, BA, ALA
1973-	E.J. Freeman, BA, ALA

LIBRARY RULES

1. The Library is open from 9.45 am to 5.15 pm, Monday to Friday (until 7.30 pm on Thursdays), excluding public holidays and the Christmas/New Year Holiday.

2. Library facilities are available without charge to *bona fide* students at the discretion of the Librarian.

3. Access to certain collections may be subject to special conditions and arrangements. Readers should consult the Curator of the relevant collection.

4. The Library is for reference and research only. Neither books nor other materials may be removed from the Library, except in the case of loans from the Student Loan Collection.

5. Food and drinks may not be brought into the Library. Smoking is not permitted.

Open Access Collections

6. Books and journals on the open shelves may be consulted without formality. They should not be replaced on the shelves after use.

Rare Materials

7. Applications for archives, manuscripts, and books on closed access must be made on the call-slips provided and handed in at the Enquiry Desk. These materials must be read in the supervised area of the Reading Room, and must be returned to the Supervisor at least fifteen minutes before the Library closes. Readers are held responsible for each item issued to them until the call-slip is cancelled on its return. Books and other materials may be reserved for further use.

8. Readers wishing to publish manuscript items, in whole or in part, are reminded that they must comply with the requirements of the Copyright Acts. The prior written permission of the Librarian should also be obtained.

9. Additional special rules apply to the use of these materials.

Copying Services

10. Readers may be supplied with photographic copies of Library materials so far as the law of copyright allows. Application forms are available. Xeroxes are not permitted from early printed books or manuscripts, or from any other items which may be damaged by copying. Copying of archival material is by arrangement only. The Library does not provide material for use in commercial advertising.

Security

11. Readers must enter and leave the Library, except in an emergency, by the official entrance and are requested to show any materials they are carrying to the Enquiry Desk Staff. Bags, briefcases, coats and umbrellas may not be brought into the Library.

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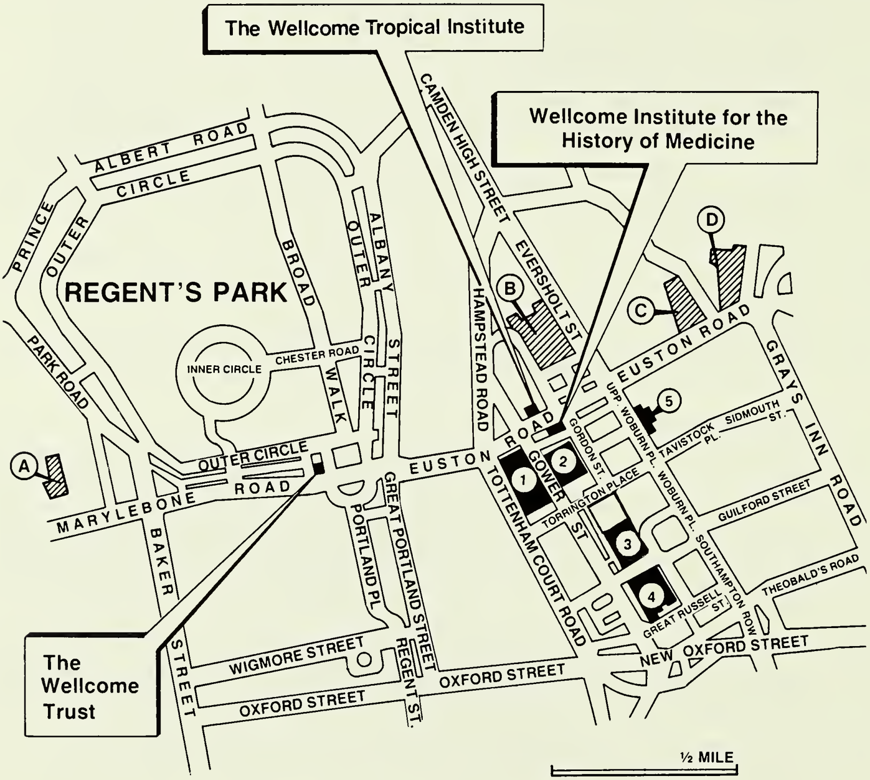

MAIN LINE STATIONS:
- A Marylebone
- B Euston
- C St. Pancras
- D Kings Cross

1. University College Hospital
2. University College London
3. London University
4. British Museum and British Library
5. British Medical Association

UNDERGROUND STATIONS:
Euston (Euston main line station)
Euston Square (Corner of Euston Road & Gower Street)
Warren Street (Corner of Tottenham Court Road & Euston Road)

BUS ROUTES:
Bus numbers 14, 18, 30, 73